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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7631

BILL NUMBER: HB 1223

NOTE PREPARED: Feb 15, 2005

BILL AMENDED: Feb 14, 2005

SUBJECT: Methamphetamine.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Koch

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: (Amended) This bill makes ephedrine and pseudoephedrine Schedule V controlled substances. It requires a law enforcement agency that terminates the operation of a methamphetamine laboratory to report the existence and location of the laboratory to the State Police, fire department, and county health department. It also requires a law enforcement agency that discovers a child less than 14 years of age at a methamphetamine laboratory to notify the Division of Family and Children.

The bill allows a law enforcement agency to quarantine a property if it is contaminated by chemicals used to manufacture a controlled substance. It establishes a procedure for removing the quarantine. It requires the Department of Environmental Management to maintain a list of persons certified to inspect or clean up property polluted by chemicals used to manufacture a controlled substance. The bill also allows a court to require a defendant demonstrating a pattern of repeated illegal use or manufacture of a controlled substance to participate in a drug treatment program as a condition of bail. The bill adds certain chemical reagents to the list of chemical reagents and precursors used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Effective Date: July 1, 2005.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *(Revised) Methamphetamine Lab Reporting:* The bill requires the State Police Department to develop either a reporting form, a specified electronic format, or both, by which law enforcement agencies can report the location of a methamphetamine lab. This provision should have a minimal fiscal impact on the Department, however, it may be dependent on the guidelines set by the Department for administering the reporting requirement.

Methamphetamine Lab Quarantine: The bill allows a law enforcement agency to quarantine the property on which a methamphetamine lab is located if it is believed by the agency that the property is polluted by a contaminant. If the agency chooses to quarantine such a property, additional expenditures could be made to provide for the required signs and notification of interested parties.

Certified Inspector List: The bill requires the Department of Environmental Management to maintain a list of certified inspectors and allows the Department to adopt rules to implement the list. The fiscal impact of this provision is dependent on the extent of the list and the resources required for establishing and maintaining such a list.

Penalty Provision: In regards to committing a Class D felony, this bill expands the list of chemical reagents or precursors that one may be found in possession of with the intent to manufacture certain controlled substances. The bill includes certain forms of ephedrine or pseudoephedrine as Schedule V controlled substances. Currently, it is a Class D felony to possess, deliver, or manufacture a Schedule V controlled substance in violation of state and federal law. The bill also reduces the list of ephedrine-related substances that one may be found in possession of more than 10 grams. The former provision could potentially increase Class D felony convictions, while the latter could potentially decrease such convictions.

A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$21,514 in FY 2004, ranging from a low of \$16,645 to a high of \$49,281. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The estimated average cost of housing a juvenile in a state juvenile facility was \$59,574, with the costs ranging from a low of \$52,420 to a high of \$77,674. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months.

Explanation of State Revenues: *(Revised) Court Fee Revenue:* A person who has an interest in property that is believed to be contaminated by a methamphetamine lab and has been quarantined by a law enforcement agency may file a petition with the appropriate circuit or superior court. The court would then be required to hold a hearing to determine if the quarantine should be removed. If additional civil actions occur, revenue to the state General Fund may increase if court fees are collected. A civil filing fee of \$100 would be assessed when a civil case is filed, 70% of which would be deposited in the state General Fund if the case is filed in a court of record or 55% if the case is filed in a city or town court.

Penalty Provision: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class D felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund.

If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *(Revised) Methamphetamine Lab Quarantine:* See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Court Fee Revenue: If additional civil actions occur, local governments would receive revenue from the

following sources. The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$100 filing fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 20% of the court fee would be deposited in the county general fund and 25% would be deposited in the city or town general fund.

Penalty Provision: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Penalty Provision:* If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: Department of Correction, State Police Department, Department of Environmental Management.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, city and town courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources:

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